

Appl. No. 09/826,690

Docket No. 6994-1

Amendment

Reply to Office Action dated November 4, 2005

Amendments to Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for school ~~admitting test takers who have applied for admission to at least one academic institution~~, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

identifying from said pool of test takers, those test takers who have applied for admission to at least ~~one~~ a second academic institution, but ~~have not received an offer for~~ do not have acceptable qualifications for admission to ~~any one of~~ said at least ~~one~~ second academic institution[[s]], wherein said identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

providing a program for admission to the first academic institution, wherein the program for admission includes an abbreviated academic program, wherein said abbreviated academic program does not count for credit toward graduation from said first academic institution;

subjecting test takers ~~that enroll~~ in the program for admission to at least one examination during said abbreviated academic program, each ~~enrolled~~ test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and

admitting into the first academic institution those ~~enrolled~~ test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of standardized test scores and grade point averages (GPAs) for said pool of test takers; and

identifying from said pool of test takers, those test takers having a standardized test score and GPA falling within said shifting range.

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3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said subjecting step comprises:

administering at least one examination to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers during said abbreviated academic program;

scoring said at least one examination based on a calibrated grading process; and

for each ~~enrolled~~ test taker, ~~combining~~ using scores for said at least one examination, ~~said combined scores forming a~~ to calculate a composite score.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said step of admitting into the first academic institution those ~~enrolled~~ test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria comprises the step of, admitting into the particular academic institution those ~~enrolled~~ test takers whose composite score exceeds a pre-determined composite score.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said abbreviated academic program comprises the step of providing asynchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of providing asynchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering electronic instructional content to remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers;

receiving classroom work-product from said remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers; and

forwarding said received classroom work-product to at least one instructor.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said abbreviated academic program comprises the step of providing synchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said step of providing synchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

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delivering on-line instructional content to remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers; and
moderating on-line participation between said remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers and
at least one instructor.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein said subjecting step further
comprises the steps of:

delivering at least one on-line examination to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers situated in a remote
testing facility;

proctoring said examination at said remote testing facility; and

factoring resulting scores for said at least one on-line examination into said composite
score.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first academic
institution is a law school and said each of said at least one second academic institutions are law
schools; and

said selecting step comprises, selecting a pool of recent Law School Admissions Test
(LSAT) test takers.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said identifying step
comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of LSAT scores and undergraduate grade point averages
(UGPAs) for said test takers;

identifying those LSAT test takers having an LSAT score and UGPA falling within said
shifting range; and

offering said identified test takers ~~the opportunity to enroll in~~ an abbreviated law school
program at a first law school, wherein an abbreviated law school program is part of said program
for admissions.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said subjecting step
comprises:

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administering at least one law school examination to said ~~enrolled~~ LSAT test takers during an abbreviated law school program;

scoring said at least one law school examination based on a calibrated grading process; and

for each ~~enrolled~~ LSAT test taker, ~~combining using~~ scores for said at least one law school examination, ~~said combined scores forming a~~ to calculate a composite score.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting test takers who have applied for admission to at least one academic institution, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

identifying from said pool of standardized test takers, those test takers who have applied for admission to a plurality of second academic institution and have received more rejections than offers of admission from said plurality of second academic institutions, wherein said identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

extending to said identified test takers an opportunity to enter a program for admission to said first academic institution and as part thereof, engage in an abbreviated academic program, wherein said abbreviated academic program does not count for credit toward graduation from said first academic institution;

~~enrolling~~ selecting at least one of said identified test takers who have accepted said entry into the admissions process at said academic institution;

subjecting said at least one ~~enrolled~~ of said identified test taker to at least one examination; and

grading said at least one examination, wherein said grading process assigns an examination score for said at least one ~~enrolled~~ test taker, whereby ~~enrolled~~ test takers achieving an examination score which exceeds a pre-defined level are ~~enrolled in~~ admitted to the said first academic institution.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said identifying step comprises the steps of:

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computing a shifting range of standardized test scores and grade point averages (GPAs) for said test takers;

selecting particular test takers having a standardized test score and GPA falling within said shifting range.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said grading step comprises the steps of:

calibrating graders using a calibrated grading process; and,

subjecting said at least one examination to said calibrated grading process, wherein a score is assigned to each of said at least one examinations; and

calculating an examination score for each ~~enrolled~~ test taker by combining each ~~enrolled~~ test taker's scores for each of said at least one examination to form a composite score.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing asynchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein said step of providing asynchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering electronic instructional content to remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers;

receiving classroom work-product from said remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers; and

forwarding said received classroom work-product to at least one instructor.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of providing synchronous instruction in at least one academic discipline to said ~~enrolled~~ test takers.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18 wherein said step of providing synchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering on-line instructional content to remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers; and

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moderating on-line participation between said remotely situated ~~enrolled~~ test takers and at least one instructor.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said selecting step comprises the steps of:

reviewing said pool of standardized test takers who have taken one of the law school admissions test (LSAT), medical college admissions test (MCAT), dental admissions test (DAT), veterinary college admissions test (VCAT), pharmacy college admissions test (PCAT), allied health programs admissions test (AHPAT), graduate record examination (GRE), and the graduate management admission test (GMAT); and

wherein said identifying step comprises, identifying among said pool of standardized test takers, those test takers who have applied for admission to at least one graduate school and have received ~~more a rejection~~ ~~[[s]] than offers of admission~~ from said at least one graduate schools.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting test takers into a first academic institution comprising the steps of:

selecting a pool of standardized test takers that includes some test takers that did not initially apply for admission to a first academic institution;

compiling from said pool of standardized test takers a list of standardized test takers who have applied for admission to at least one second academic institution, but who do not meet the criteria for admission to any one of said at least one second academic institutions, wherein said compiling step is enabled by a computer product;

electronically registering selected ones of said test takers in an abbreviated academic program, wherein said abbreviated academic program does not count for credit toward graduation from said first academic institution;

administering at least one examination over a computer communications network to said registered test takers during said abbreviated academic program, each registered test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and

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electronically ~~enrolling in~~ admitting to the first academic institution those registered test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.

22. (Previously Presented) A machine readable storage, having stored thereon a computer program for admitting applicants to a first academic institution, said computer program having a plurality of code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

compiling a list of standardized test takers who have applied for admission to at least one second academic institution, but have not received an offer of admission to any one of said at least one second academic institutions, wherein some of the test takers in the list did not initially apply for admission to the first academic institution;

electronically registering selected ones of said test takers in an abbreviated academic program at the first academic institution;

administering at least one examination over a computer communications network to said registered test takers during said abbreviated academic program, each registered test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination; and

electronically enrolling in the first academic institution those registered test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which satisfies an admissions criteria.